

Proposed Fruit Dehydrating Plant at Cowiche, Wash.

The Cowiche-Tieton district located in the upper Western part of the Yakima Valley has been increasing in fruit production year by year. Many of the orchards are still young and have yet to reach their prime. New plantings of apples and pears continued in this district while other districts in the Valley were pulling out orchards particularly of apples. Growing conditions are favorable to quality production and high yields in this district.

The variety of apples grown there are in popular demand. The Delicious and Winesap varieties predominate in about equal proportions. Other varieties produced of importance are the Jonathan and Rome Beauty. In pear production the Bartlett pears holds the chief position. Other varieties such as Anjou, Bosc, and Nellis are grown in quantity. While other soft fruits are grown in the Cowiche district, it is considered mainly an apple producing section. So also is the neighboring district of Tieton, Wash., 5 miles to the West, which figures prominently in apple production.

Cowiche, Wash., was selected as the logical site for a fruit dehydrating plant mainly because of the more central location to the fruit district and also because of the fact that more fruit packing and storage concerns are located there. An ample supply of low grade fruit suitable for processing is available from the packers in Cowiche and from numerous other packers located on the large orchard tracts of the district.

A projected plan of erecting a fruit dehydrating plant in Cowiche was well received by the people of the community and particularly by the fruit growers and packers who are interested in seeing their low grade fruit processed in their own community. Low grade apples are now hauled long distances or shipped to the Coast to processors. Low grade pears have been going to the dump.

For several years past the Cowiche community have considered the need of a by product plant being located there to process their low grade fruit. Interested parties have at times solicited our company to put up a dehydrating plant. It was

not until our plant at Prosser, Wash. located at the other end of the Yakima Valley burned down in October of 1944 that we began to seriously consider the proposal. We had also operated a plant at Buena, Wash., up to last year but this plant being old and of obsolete construction was dismantled in the spring of 1944. A considerable tonnage from the afore named Cowiche district had been hauled 45 to 75 miles to be processed at our Buena and Prosser plants. With these two plants out of production we are now desirous of restoring our plant capacity in a section which shows the most promise. The Buena and Prosser sections have seriously declined in apple production and do not now make favorable locations for dehydrating plants.

X Our Company known as the Valley Evaporating Company has been operating in the State of Washington since 1927. At present we are operating four dehydrating plants located in good fruit sections namely: Yakima, Wenatchee, Chelan Falls and Oroville. These plants are operating on full production schedules as labor supply permits. Our present combined daily production of dehydrated apples amounts to 40 tons. Our seasonal output will total close to 5000 tons or 30% of the total United States production of dehydrated apples. Since dehydrated apples production is considered essential to the War effort we believe it is timely to erect a dehydrating plant in the Cowiche section to process the low grade fruit available there.

X We propose to construct a dehydrating plant having a daily output capacity of 4 tons of dehydrated fruit. It is proposed to install both apple and pear preparation lines so that the operating season of the plant can be extended and the low grade pears now going to the dump or pig feed can be salvaged for civilian food supply.

X The packing concerns have been contacted and most all of them have agreed to contract their low grade fruit with us for a five year period thus insuring an adequate supply for the proposed plant. A suitable price of property on which to locate has also been purchased. Operation of the plant would be under the name of the Valley Evaporating Company, Cowiche, Wash. Funds for the capital investment would be furnished by the Company and private sources.

(3)

We trust that this prospectus will merit the consideration of the War Production Board and that approval of the project may be granted.